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IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information playback apparatus comprising:
data playback means for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting
playback data in response to a request from later-stage processing, said request including a
condition for outputting of the playback data within a predetermined period of time;
bit error correction means for correcting a bit error generated in said playback data; and
a buffer memory for temporarily storing data output by said error correction means and
outputting stored data to later-stage processing,
wherein, during the predetermined period of time, the error correction means performs
retry processing to correct a bit error when said error correction means detects a bit error difficult
to correct, and, when the predetermined period of time has elapsed,
~~wherein~~ the error correction means substitutes recognizable dummy data for said
playback data output to said later-stage processing when said error correction means detects a bit
error difficult to correct.

2. (Original) The information playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
recognizable dummy data used as a substitute for said playback data containing a bit error
difficult to correct is output to said later-stage processing in case said playback data is detected
by said error correction means by executing the steps of: